

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To: Ambulance Providers
Managed Care Plans
CSO Administrators
Regional Administrators

Memorandum No: 02-03 MAA
Issued: February 1, 2002

For More Information Call:
Toll Free: 1-800-562-6188

From: Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary
Medical Assistance Administration

**Subject: Enhanced Reimbursement to Ambulance Providers who Transport
Medicaid Clients with Major Trauma**

Retroactive to dates of service on and after July 1, 2001, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) offers enhanced reimbursement to ambulance transportation providers who transport eligible Medicaid (Title XIX) clients with major trauma to a designated trauma center.

This enhancement applies to Title XIX fee-for-service clients only. The enhancement is an annual payment of \$2,400 per qualifying provider, paid at the end of each state fiscal year.

In order for providers to receive the enhanced payment:

- **The provider must be a verified agency with the Department of Health's Office of EMS and Trauma;**
- The provider must follow Steps 1-3 in the Department of Health's (DOH's) "Prehospital Trauma Triage (Destination) Procedures." You may download this triage tool from the DOH website: www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emtp/pub&rept.htm;
- The trauma patient must be treated at a designated trauma center (see [Numbered Memo 01-14 MAA](#) for an updated list of centers);
- The service must be provided on or after July 1, 2001; and
- The correct trauma modifier must be on the claim form.

(Refer to [WAC 246-976-935](#))

Providers should use the HCFA-1500 claim form when billing for major trauma services. To designate services related to a major trauma client, enter "ST" in the modifier field (24D) for the billed services. This will route the claim to a manual gross adjustment process, performed at the end of each state fiscal year, to enhance the standard payment to the major trauma payment level.

Providers must submit adjustments to add the **ST** modifier to claims with dates of service July 1, 2001, through January 18, 2002, for those transports to qualify for the trauma enhancement payment. If an ambulance provider has not had a qualifying transport by the month of May, the provider may request the alternative of a \$1,200 grant for that fiscal year from the DOH. If a provider requests and receives the standard \$1,200 grant, they are not eligible for the enhanced \$2,400 grant for that year. However, they can qualify for the enhanced grant in the following year if they meet the enhancement criteria during that year. DOH must receive requests for the alternative grant by May 15th of each state fiscal year. Contact Kristin Reichl at (360) 705-6733 for inquiries about the program. Mail requests for grants to:

Kristin Reichl
DOH/EMS
MS 4-7853
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To obtain this memorandum electronically, go to MAA's website at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov> (Click on the Provider Publications/Fee Schedules link, then Numbered Memorandum).